

Reporting Period: October 1 - December 31, 2002

Name of PVO: Health Volunteers Overseas

Grant Agreement #: 492-G-0098-00011-00

Title of Project: Vietnam Rehabilitation Project

Date of this Report: January 15, 2003

I. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

A. Support the activities of the Disability Forum

1. Program Activities:

a. In coordination with other NGO members of the Disability Forum and the National Coordinating Council for Disabilities, HVO assisted in sending a large delegation of PWD representatives and government officials to the October Campaign 2002 in Osaka, Japan. HVO sponsored one PWD participant from each of the three regions of the country as well as the Disability Forum program coordinator.

b. The International Day of Disabled Persons was celebrated on December 3 with a music and sports event in Hanoi's Lenin Park.

c. The on-going strategic planning process resulted in the election of a new management committee and a decision to delay the formulation of an action plan until after the holiday season.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results:

a. Participants reported on their Osaka experiences to members at the Disability Forum meeting on December 12. They saw the conference as a valuable opportunity to network and learn from other PWD groups in the region. They were especially impressed by the barrier-free accessibility of public places in Japan. A second UN Decade for People with Disabilities was officially declared for 2003-2012.

b. The December 3 event was well-attended and very successful. It was an important learning experience for the organizing committee who met regularly at the Disability Forum in the months leading up to the International Day. The same group will also plan for a commemoration of the National Day for People with Disabilities on March 18.

c. NGO and PWD member organizations are represented equally on the new management committee. The group now meets twice a month to deal with management

issues. The plenary meets once every two months. A retreat will be planned with a professional facilitator to formulate an action plan in the first quarter of 2003.

B. To support the university linkages through the development of distance learning opportunities

1. Program Activities

The university linkage agreement between Temple University and Hue University was finalized. Planning began for linkage activities in March, at the same time that a follow-up rehabilitation workshop will take place.

Final planning was underway for an assessment visit to the University of Medicine and Pharmacy in Ho Chi Minh City by a delegation from Texas Tech University Health Science Center and the College of New Rochelle. While there is currently a linkage between the College of New Rochelle and the university in HCMC, it is hoped that the linkage can be expanded and strengthened through collaboration with Texas Tech.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results

The Temple University visits are scheduled for the week of March 10.

The assessment visit by the College of New Rochelle and Texas Tech will take place the week of January 13.

C. To develop training components with VIETCOT

1. Program Activities:

Implementation of VIETCOT's two concurrent courses continued as planned during the quarter.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results

A break for the Tet holidays in late January will mark the midway point for both the one-year orthotics course and the 3-year Category II course. One orthotics student has dropped out due to health problems. That class will continue with fourteen students.

D. Develop further the professional capacities of nurses, rehabilitation doctors and physical therapists

1. Program Activities:

a. VNA's series of training courses to upgrade nurses' skills in research methodology continued during the quarter.

b. The MOH's series of skills upgrading courses also continued with training in cerebral palsy in October.

c. HVO supported VINAREHA's annual conference in Danang in October.

d. A member of the nursing department of Ho Chi Minh City's Medical University, Ms. Nguyen Thi Ngoc Suong, attended a conference on hospice care in New York.

2. Actual Versus Expected Results:

a. With Mr Muc and other VNA personnel acting as trainers and WHO nursing program staff participating in the preparation of materials, the training series continued with two 3-day courses in Quang Ninh and Nha Trang in November.

b. The Rehabilitation Coordinating Committee of the MOH offered a course in cerebral palsy in Nha Trang in late October. As usual, HVO provided materials, hotel accommodation and travel reimbursements.

c. VINAREHA held their annual meeting in October as planned. Elections for the association's steering committee were held during the two-day conference.

d. Ms. Suong reported to the HCMC nursing department upon her return from the New York conference, at which she was invited to give a presentation.

II. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROJECT IMPACT

In the activities listed above, HVO's partners from the Ministry of Health and the Nursing and Rehabilitation Associations contributed their time and effort in organizing and implementing the events. HVO's insistence that all such work be provided without compensation has often met with resistance in the past. However, this quarter - and throughout the year - a gradual acceptance of such policies has been noted. This will be increasingly important with the initiation in Danang of a Quality Assurance project which is anticipated next quarter.

III. SUMMARY STATEMENT OF PROGRESS MADE IN TERMS OF SUSTAINABILITY

To date, there is still no word from NCCD as to progress in the preparation of the manual for establishing independent PWD groups. In private discussions and in his address to the gathering in Lenin Park, UNDP Resident Advisor Jordan Ryan emphasized the importance of the self-help groups which are proliferating around the country. His message was, in part, intended for government officials in attendance. UNDP and other international agencies agree that direct involvement of self-help groups is the key to sustainability for the PWD movement. But it also seems clear that government officials are wary of granting them any autonomy for fear that other civil groups might demand the same.

IV. ANALYSIS OF QUARTER

Coordination among NGOs and PWD groups continues to improve. This quarter, HVO and Disability Forum representatives met with visiting program evaluators from VNAH and VVAF. Kathleen Blank solicited input to assess the impact of VNAH's advocacy program and a delegation from USAID Washington visited Hanoi to evaluate VVAF's program. HVO also participated in formal discussions with Radda Barnen (inclusive education), Handicap International (landmines), and WHO (nursing). The World Bank's Advisor on Disability and Development, Judith Heumann, was the Disability Forum's special guest for the October 10 plenary meeting. She urged Forum members to become more involved with the Bank in planning and implementing projects. The members of the Disability Forum hope to participate in planning for the World Bank's upcoming Country Innovation Day.

V. DATA COLLECTION

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| Campaign 2002 | 4 participants |
| December 3 event | 200 participants |
| VIETCOT course | 15 one-year students 6 continuing 3-yr students |
| VNA training courses | 85 participants |
| CP training course | 45 participants |
| VINAREHA conference | 65 participants |

VI. FINANCIAL/EXPENDITURE

To be submitted separately.